

**ABSTRACT**

An infrared dye, characterized in that the dye comprises a compound that comprises a molecule that can be described by claim 1.

1. A compound of the form  $\text{R}_1\text{R}_2\text{C}=\text{N}^+\text{R}_3$ , where  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_2$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl, and  $\text{R}_3$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl, and the compound is a dye.